Embassy of The Sultanate of Oman Washington, D.C.



سَفَالِقَسَلَطَلِنَهُ الْكَثَّ ولارهان

MC/ADM/026/06

June 15, 2006

The Honorable Congressman Robert Wexler 213 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wexler,

Thank you very much for your letter of June 9th to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of Oman. It gives me great honor to reply on His Majesty's behalf, as his envoy to the United States.

First, I wish to welcome the opportunity to confirm that Oman does not aply any trade boycotts of any description, and that furthermore free trade is an important principle enshrined in Oman's Basic Law. Free trade is also an important principle in the context of the WTO, and Oman takes its obligations in that connection very seriously indeed.

We welcome your appreciation of Oman's long standing friendship with the United States, and our concern to support all efforts for peace in the Middle East, in particular in relation to Israel and Palestine. From the Camp David agreement in 1978, to the Madrid talks, the Oslo agreement, and in particular in welcoming Prime Ministers Yitzak Rabin and Shimon Peres to Oman, in 1994 and 1996 respectively. His Majesty's government has always been pleased to take every opportunity to demonstrate Oman's unwavering commitment to the cause of peace. We note your comments in relation to reciprocal trade missions, and hope that circumstances will develop to permit progress on such issues.

We appreciate that you have withheld making any premature cecisions regarding Oman's adherence to its officially stated policies based on a newspaper account. I look forward to meeting with you to dicuss this in

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detail, but suffice to say, it is inaccurate and does not fully describe the situation which, in its entirety, would hardly constitute a newsworthy event.

We are glad to have had the opportunity to send this message setting Oman's definitive and clear position in relation to free trade, in support of peace in the Middle East, and in friendship to the United States.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Hunaina Al Mughairy

Ambassador